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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/432,618	11/03/1999	FREDERICK J. ROEBER	99-401	1298

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EXAMINER

KENDALL, CHUCK O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2122

DATE MAILED: 08/15/2003

17

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/432,618

Applicant(s)

ROEBER ET AL.

Examiner

Chuck O Kendall

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 28-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the application filed 07/07/03

Claims 1-15,28-40 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-5,12-15,32-35, & 38-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rees et al. USPN 5,748,878.

Regarding claims 1 & 28, Rees anticipates a system for monitoring the operation of computer program, by collecting related events relating to the performance of a plurality of target programs, each program running on a respective target processor, and each target processor being located on a separate system bus, the system comprising:

- a plurality of event collection cards each receiving events (3: 35-45, see data tags), from a respective one of the plurality of target programs (4:1-10), wherein each of the plurality of event collection cards and the respective one of the target programs is installed on the same system bus, and wherein each event collection card includes:

- a time stamp clock for providing a time stamp when each event is received (fig3, 4.8); an event memory for storing the received events (fig3, 4.6 and 4.4);

- a sync interface unit for receiving a sync signal (fig 7)

- a collection control unit for time stamping the collected events according to the time stamp clock synchronized to the sync signal, and for storing the time stamped events in the event memory, and for sending the collected software related events to a

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host computer the monitors the performance of the target program based on the collected events (3:20-40,5:55-65,11:35-55)

Regarding claims 2,&29 the system of claim 1, wherein the sync interface unit periodically receives the sync signal, and wherein the sync control unit periodically synchronizes the time stamp clock by setting the time stamp clock to a preset value upon receipt of the sync signal (fig7).

Regarding claims 3,& 30 the system of claim 2, wherein the sync control unit increments the time stamp clock to the preset value when the time stamp clock has not reached the preset value when the sync signal is received (12:25-40).

Regarding claim 4 & 31 the system of claim 2, wherein the sync control unit stops the time stamp clock when the time stamp clock reaches the preset value before the sync signal is received (12:25-40 for stop see latches at appropriate time, the latch is analogous to open and closing).

Regarding claim 5 wherein one of the plurality of event collection cards acts as a master card and at least one other event collection card including a slave card that synchronizes the time stamp clock of the slave card to the time stamp clock of the master card (12:35-40, for master and slave see sync and under control of control circuit).

Regarding claim 12 the system of claim 1, wherein:

the collection control unit initializes the corresponding target processor prior to collecting events by assigning an address range to the target processor, wherein the target processor uses the assigned addresses when sending events to the event collection card [6:40-45].

Regarding claim 13 the system of claim 12, wherein:

the collection control unit determines an identification value by decoding the address to which the respective target processor has sent the event, wherein the identification value corresponds to the target program corresponding to the respective target processor (fig 4, 132).

Regarding claim 14 the system of claim 13, wherein:

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the collection control unit time stamps the identification value and stores the time stamped identification value in the event memory (fig3, 4.6 and 4.4).

Regarding claim 15 the system of claim 1, wherein the collection control unit updates a memory count for each time stamped event stored in the event memory, wherein the event collection card sends the collected events to a host computer for processing, wherein the event collection card further includes (fig3, 4.6 and 4.4,4.8):

a processing unit for sending the collected events to the host computer according to the memory count (fig,7).

Regarding claim 32 see claim 5 for reasoning.

Regarding claim 33 see claim 6 for reasoning.

Regarding claim 34 see claim 8 for reasoning.

Regarding claim 35 see claim 9 for reasoning.

Regarding claim 38 see claim 12 for reasoning.

Regarding claim 39 see claim 13 for reasoning.

Regarding claim 40 see claim 5 for reasoning.

4. Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rees et al. USPN 5,748,878 as applied in claim 1 and claim 28 in view of Nouri et al USPN 6,073,255.

Regarding claim 6 Rees discloses, all the claimed limitations as applied in claim 1 and claim 28. Rees doesn't explicitly control unit receives a start request requesting that the collection control unit begin collecting events and whether the event collection card is a master card or a slave card. However, Nouri does disclose this limitation [Nouri, 11:23-30, 13:25]. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Rees and Nouri, because sending requests or signals during synchronization makes syncing systems together more efficient.

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Regarding claim 7 as in claim 1, wherein the plurality of event collection cards are daisy-chain connected to one another [Nouri, 11:35-40, see point to point serial link, see fig2].

Regarding claim 8 the system of claim 1, wherein the sync interface unit receives the sync signal from a time-based global positioning system [Nouri, 10:64 -11:1-15, see Global network address].

Regarding claims 9 the system of claim 1, wherein the sync interface unit receives the sync signal from an atomic clock [Nouri, 10:64-11:1-15, see Global network address, interprets atomic clock to be the clock signal].

5. Claims 10, 11, 36 & 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rees et al. USPN 5,748,878 in view of Hershey et al. USPN 5,375,070 hereinafter Hershey.

Regarding claims 10 & 36, Rees discloses all the claimed limitation as applied in claim 1 and claim 28. Rees doesn't explicitly disclose a bus isolation unit for allowing the event collection bus and the local bus to operate in parallel. However, Hershey does disclose this feature in a similar configuration [Hershey, 12:30]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Rees with Hershey to implement the instant claimed invention because, both deal with event logging (analogous prior art) and provide similar solutions to the same problem.

Regarding claim 11 wherein the bus isolation unit allows the processing unit to access the event memory via the local bus and the event collection bus, see (Rees, fig 3).

Regarding claim 37 see reasoning in 11.

Correspondence Information

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Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chuck O. Kendall who may be reached via telephone at (703) 308-6608. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, *Greg Morse* can be reached at (703) 308-4789.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

For facsimile (fax) send to 703-7467239 official and 703-7467240 draft

Chuck O. Kendall

*Software Engineer Patent Examiner
United States Department of Commerce*


**TUAN Q. DAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER**